

FROM STATE STATISTICIAN

Leland E. Brown



The Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service helps keep track of the Commonwealth's largest non-service industry and provides accurate, up-to-date information on nearly every aspect of that industry. Agriculture is a crucial part of both the national and global economies. The 2000-2001 edition of the *Kentucky Agricultural Statistics* represents a cooperative effort between the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and contains current statistics for Kentucky's nearly \$3.6 billion agricultural industry.

Reliable and consistent production data are needed by data users for their informed and knowledgeable decisions. With increasing unpredictability of commodity prices and competition from a growing global marketplace, data users must have accurate and unbiased data, such as found in *Kentucky Agricultural Statistics*. Farmers and agribusinesses need information for their production planning and marketing decisions. The media, legislators, and educators also need this data to develop sound policies. and to promote Kentucky's agricultural products.

The data presented and used in this bulletin were made possible by the voluntary but essential cooperation of thousands of farmers and agribusinesses in Kentucky who respond to our many surveys. All Kentucky citizens and data users owe them a debt of gratitude for taking the time to complete the surveys.

A special thanks goes to the dedicated staff of field and telephone enumerators who have spent many hours collecting data from the Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses selected on our surveys. These enumerators are our ambassadors to the agricultural community throughout the Commonwealth.

The Internet has quickly become a key source for information and statistics about U.S. agriculture. Those with access to the Internet can get all the information in the publication from our <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky/> Web site. National releases, including results from the 1997 Census of Agriculture, can be accessed at our <http://www.usda.gov/nass/> Web page. Free e-mail subscriptions are offered for many of the reports so that they will be automatically delivered to your electronic mailbox shortly after the report is released. Historic estimates of commodity production by county are available on the NASS home page for nearly every county in the United States.

The staff of the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service is dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of all users. Please contact us any time with your questions, comments and requests for information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leland E. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

LELAND E. BROWN